Divecha, Kamal B.

From: Jens Jenkins [JJenkins@WNLaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2005 2:18 PM
To: Jens Jenkins; Divecha, Kamal B.
Cc: Paige P. Ahlstrom
Subject: RE: Here are proposed claim amendments to enter by Examiner's Amendment for 09-943,766

Here is the newly revised version we discussed today.

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From: Jens Jenkins
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 10:18 AM
To: Jens Jenkins; 'Kamal.Divecha@uspto.gov'
Cc: Paige P. Ahlstrom
Subject: RE: Here are proposed claim amendments to enter by Examiner's Amendment for 09-943,766

Here is the revised version

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From: Jens Jenkins
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2005 4:33 PM
To: 'Kamal.Divecha@uspto.gov'
Cc: Paige P. Ahlstrom; Jens Jenkins
Subject: Here are proposed claim amendments to enter by Examiner's Amendment for 09-943,766

You are authorized to make the amendments shown in the document, by Examiner's Amendment, as I authorized over the phone.

Jens C. Jenkins
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1. (Currently Amended) In a computer network that comprises one or more servers providing one or more services to at least one client, and wherein the at least one client accesses the one or more services through ~~one of~~ the one or more servers during a plurality of sessions created in response to a login request from the at least one client, with at least some of the plurality of sessions occurring simultaneously, and wherein access to the one or more services during a particular session ~~may include~~ includes at least one of a charged time portion and a free time portion, a method of tracking the at least one client usage of the one or more services during each session ~~and whether, for each session the access to a service is a charged time portion or a free time portion~~, the method comprising acts of:

receiving at one of the one or more servers one or more metering packets from the at least one client, each of the one or more metering packets being generated at the at least one client and each metering packet being used at the at least one client to store data for tracking usage of one or more services during each session, and each metering packet comprising a data structure for storing the following data:

a session identifier element that links a particular metering packet with a particular session;

a time element indicating the at least one client~~'s~~ usage of the one or more services, the time element comprising a charged time portion and a free time portion, wherein the charged time portion corresponds to access to one or more services that incurs an access charge, and wherein the free time portion corresponding to access to one or more services that does not incur an access charge; and

a sequence number element; and the one or more servers updating a usage database based on the received one or more metering packets by

using the sequence number element to determine whether each received metering packet is redundant of any prior metering packet already stored in the usage database, and if so, discarding it, and if not, then

storing ~~the~~ each received metering packet that is not redundant in the usage database in order to store the data contained in ~~the~~ each received metering packet that is not redundant, and from which it can ~~may~~ be determined from the time element whether the at least client~~'s~~ usage of the one or more services during the particular session for that received metering packet is a charged time portion or a free time portion.

12. (Currently Amended) In a computer network that comprises one or more servers providing one or more services to at least one client, and wherein the at least one client accesses the one or more services through ~~one of~~ the one or more servers during a plurality of sessions created in response to a login request from the at least one client, with at least some of the plurality of sessions occurring simultaneously, and wherein access to the one or more services during a particular session ~~may include~~ includes at least one of a charged time portion and a free time portion, a method of tracking the at least one client usage of the one or more services during each session ~~and whether, for each session the access to a service is a charged time portion or a free time portion~~, the method comprising acts of:

in response to a login request received at one server of the one or more servers from the at least one client, a step for communicating from said one server to the at least one client usage tracking parameters;

thereafter a step for one or more metering packets being generated at the at least one client,

each metering packet being used at the at least one client to store data for tracking usage of one or more services during each session, and each metering packet comprising a data structure for storing the following data:

a session identifier element that links a particular metering packet with a particular session; and

a time element indicating the at least one client~~'s~~ usage of the one or more services, the time element comprising a charged time portion and a free time portion, wherein the charged time portion corresponds to access to one or more services that incurs an access charge, and wherein the free time portion corresponding to access to one or more services that does not incur an access charge;

said one server performing a step for identifying one or more sessions through which the at least one client has accessed the one or more services;

the one server performing a step for monitoring metering packets that are received from the at least one client; and

the one server performing a step for tracking the at least one client~~'s~~ usage of the one or more services during each session based on the received one or more metering packets in order to store data from which it can be determined whether the at least one client~~'s~~ usage of the one or more services during each session is a charged time portion or a free time portion.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing, in a computer network that comprises one or more servers providing one or more services to at least one client, and wherein the at least one client accesses the one or more services through ~~one of~~ the one or more servers during a plurality of sessions created in response to a login request from the at least one client, with at least some of the plurality of sessions occurring simultaneously, and wherein access to the one or more services during a particular session ~~may include~~ includes at least one of a charged time portion and a free time portion, a method of tracking the at least one client usage of the one or more services during each session ~~and whether, for each session the access to a service is a charged time portion or a free time portion~~, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium for carrying machine-executable instructions that implement the method, and the method comprising:

in response to a login request received at one server of the one or more servers from the at least one client, a step for communicating from said one server to the at least one client usage tracking parameters;

thereafter a step for one or more metering packets being generated at the at least one client,

each metering packet being used at the at least one client to store data for tracking usage of one or more services during each session, and each metering packet comprising a data structure for storing the following data:

a session identifier element that links a particular metering packet with a particular session; and

a time element indicating the at least one client~~'s~~ usage of the one or more services, the time element comprising a charged time portion and a free time portion, wherein the charged time portion corresponds to access to one or more services that incurs an access charge, and wherein the free time portion corresponding to access to one or more services that does not incur an access charge;

said one server performing a step for identifying one or more sessions through which the at least one client has accessed the one or more services;

the one server performing a step for monitoring metering packets that are received from the at least one client; and

the one server performing a step for tracking the at least one client~~'s~~ usage of the one or more services during each session based on the received one or more metering packets in order to store data from which it can be determined whether the at least one client~~'s~~ usage of the one or more services during each session is a charged time portion or a free time portion.

30. (Currently Amended) In a computer network that comprises at least one server, the at least one server providing one or more services to at least one client that accesses the one or more services through the at least one server during a plurality of sessions created in response to a login request from the at least one client, with at least some of the plurality of sessions occurring simultaneously, and wherein access to the one or more services during a particular session includes at least one of ~~may include~~ a charged time portion and a free time portion, a method of tracking the at least one client usage of the one or more services during each session ~~and whether, for each session the access to a service is a charged time portion or a free time portion~~, the method comprising acts of:

a client sending a login request to a login service;

accessing, through one or more sessions created in response to the login request, at least one of the one or more services provided by one or more servers and tracking parameters corresponding to client usage of the one or more services;

generating a plurality of metering packets corresponding to a single session that each includes a time element indicating ~~the~~ the at least one client's usage of the one or more services, each metering packet being used at the client to store data for tracking usage of the one or more services during each session, and each metering packet comprising a data structure for storing the following data:

a session identifier element that links a particular metering packet with a particular session; and

a time element indicating the at least one client's usage of the one or more services, the time element comprising a charged time portion and a free time portion, wherein the charged time portion corresponds to access to one or more services that incurs an access charge, and wherein the free time portion corresponding to access to one or more services that does not incur an access charge; and

sending at least one of the plurality of metering packets to a census service, wherein the census service updates a usage database based on the metering packets so that the usage database reflects the at least one client's usage of the one or more services provided by the ~~one or more servers~~ at least one server.

Proposed amendments also include:

canceling claims 17 and 43

changing the dependency of claim 18 so it depends on claim 12, and

changing the dependency of claim 44 so that it depends on claim 39.